

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8899

INFO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 0875

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, XA

SUBJECT: REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINTS STUDY

REF: STATE 020621

1. LIBERIA HAS A MODEST PROGRAM FOR ITS ARMED FORCES AIMED AT INCREASING THEIR SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND ENABLING THEM TO PERFORM THEIR INTERNAL SECURITY ROLE. GOL OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN MILITARY MATTERS, FROM PRESIDENT DOWN THROUGH CABINET AND SUBCABINET LEVELS, INCLUDING MILITARY HIERARCHY, HAVE SHOWN LITTLE APPETITE FOR UNNECESSARY SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY.

2. US MILITARY MISSION HAS BEEN IN LIBERIA SINCE 1951; ITS CHIEF IS ALSO PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S PERSONAL MILITARY ADVISOR. USMM'S CLOSE INVOLVEMENT WITH GOL MILITARY AT ALL LEVELS FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES FORECLOSES POSSIBILITY OF ADVENTURISM IN ARMS MATTERS. MOREOVER, GOL AND ITS MILITARY WANT TO CONTINUE IN CLOSE LIAISON WITH US ON MILITARY MATTERS, AND PREFER (AS WE ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO) TO BUY AMERICAN EQUIPMENT.

3. AS LONG AS PRESENT GOL VIEW OF ITS ARMED FORCES' ROLE PERSISTS, AND USMM CONTINUES IN ITS CURRENT RELATIONSHIP TO GOL ARMS RESTRAINTS OF TYPE ENVISIONED BY STATE 020621 WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE RELEVANCE TO LIBERIA.

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